

Message Text

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FOR HODDING CARTER FROM PA/PRESS

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TAGS:SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CRYUS R.)

SUBJECT: MORNING PRESS SUMMARY

NO. 5

NEWSPAPERS

1. WASHINGTON POST - MARDER FROM DAR ES SALAAM

LEAD: "SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE AND BRITISH FOREIGN
SECRETARY DAVID OWEN WERE PRESENTED WITH STIFF DEMANDS LAST
NIGHT BY THE GUERRILLA PARTIOTIC FRONT ON THE ANGLO-AMERICAN
PLAN TO BRING BLACK MAJORITY RULE TO RHODESIA.

POLITICAL CHIEFS OF THE GUERRILLA MOVEMENT, J.NKOMO AND
R. MUGABE, OPENED TWO DAYS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH WHAT AN
AMERICAN SOURCE DESCRIBED AS 'HARD POSITIONS -- THEIR MAX-
IMUM POSITIONS'. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT 'EVEN IN THEIR
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MAXIMUM POSITIONS THERE IS HOPE.'

OTHER POINTS:

-- THE AMERICAN DELEGATION HAD COME FORECASTING 'AGREEMENT
IN PRINCIPLE' BUT THE GAP BETWEEN PRINCIPLE AND THE SPECIFICS
WAS STRIKING EVIDENT. A BRITISH SPOKESMAN SAID: 'IT MUST

BE REMEMBERED THAT THESE ARE THE GUT ISSUES, WHO SHALL HOLD POWER IN RHODESIA.'

-- THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, WHICH HAS DENOUNCED THE SO-CALLED INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AS A SELL-OUT BY BLACK 'PUPPETS,' INDICATED YESTERDAY, AS ANTICIPATED, THAT IT WILL ACCEPT A JOINT CONFERENCE. THE FRONT IS DETERMINED, HOWEVER, TO PIN DOWN THE US AND BRITAIN TO CONDITIONS THAT WILL ASSURE THAT SMITH AND HIS BLACK PARTNERS WILL FACE TERMS THAT WILL SWEEP THEM OUT OF POWER.

-- VANCE WOULD SAY ONLY THAT "THEY ARE SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS" AND "I DON'T WANT TO CHARACTERIZE IT ANY FURTHER." OWEN SAID THAT THESE TALKS MAY HAVE TO BE EXTENDED.

-- THE MOST OBSTINATE QUESTIONS ARE THE TERMS IN THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN FOR A TRANSITION PERIOD OF MOVING TOWARD ELECTIONS IN RHODESIA. SPECIFICALLY, THEY ARE THE TEMPORARY RESTORATION OF BRITISH AUTHORITY AND THE POWERS OF A PEACE-KEEPING UN FORCE.

-- BEYOND THESE ISSUES, VANCE TOLD THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND OFFICIALS OF AFRICAN NATIONS THAT EACH SIDE COULD BRING UP WHATEVER IT WISHED. PARTICIPANTS SAID THERE WAS NOT OPPOSITION EXPRESSED INSIDE THE MEETING BUT THE PF LEADERS TOOK A STERNER POSITION IN PRIVATE.
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-- MUGABE REMARKED: "... THERE CANNOT BE A 'CONFERENCE WHICH SEEKS TO MARRY US ... WITH THE SO-CALLED INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. ... ANY CONFERENCE MUST BE ON THE BASIS OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN, IGNORING THE INIQUITOUS AGREEMENT BETWEEN SMITH AND THE 'STOOGES.'

-- THE VANCE-OWEN OBJECTIVE RIGHT NOW IS TO GET THE PAT. FRONT LEADERS FULLY COMMITTED TO THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN BEFORE GOING TO SALISBURY FOR BARGAINING WITH SMITH AND BLACK LEADERS THERE.

-- THE GUERRILLA CHIEFS HAVE NO INTENTION 'TO ACCEPT ANYTHING THAT SMITH PROPOSES,' ONE CONFERENCE PARTICIPANT SAID.

-- OWEN TOLD REPORTERS THAT HE BELIEVES SMITH AND HIS BLACK PARTNERS WILL EVENTUALLY NEGOTIATE WITH THE PAT. FRONT.

2. NEW YORK TIMES - GWERTZMAN FROM DAR ES SALAAM:

LEAD: "RHODESIAN GUERRILLA LEADERS TOLD SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE AND FOREIGN MINISTER DAVID OWEN TODAY THAT UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS THEY WOULD ACCEPT KEY ELEMENTS OF THE BRITISH-AMERICAN PLAN FOR A RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT, INCLUDING THE STATIONING OF AN IMPARTIAL U.N. FORCE TO INSURE THAT FREE ELECTIONS ARE CARRIED OUT."

OTHER POINTS:

-- PATRIOTIC FRONT WAS LESS AGREEABLE AT FIRST TO THE BRITISH-AMERICAN PLAN THAN THE AMERICANS AND BRITISH HAD HOPES. NKOMO AND MUGABE INDICATED THEY WANTED TO BARGAIN AT LENGTH ON DETAILS OF THE PLAN.

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-- AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAID THE GUERRILLA LEADERS HAD NOT REJECTED THE IDEA THAT AT A CONFERENCE OF ALL PARTIES SMITH AND HIS BLACK SUPPORTERS COULD RAISE OTHER MATTERS, INCLUDING 'THEIR INTERNAL SETTLEMENT.'

-- MEETINGS WERE MORE DIFFICULT THAN VANCE OR OWEN HAD EXPECTED, BUT THEIR SPOKESMEN INSISTED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WERE NOT AT AN IMPASSE AND THAT PROGRESS WAS POSSIBLE WHEN THE TALKS RESUME TOMORROW.

3. BALTIMORE SUN - TREWHITT FROM DAR ES SALAAM

MILITANT REBEL LEADERS AGREED PUBLICLY FOR THE FIRST TIME YESTERDAY TO MEET THEIR RIVALS FOR POWER IN RHODESIA - INCLUDING THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT - BUT THEIR AGREEMENT WAS TIGHTLY HEDGED.

VANCE AND OWEN STRUGGLING TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT ON DETAILS, BUT AS MATTERS NOW STAND, EVEN IF THEY SUCCEED, THE CURRENT RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD REJECT THE OFFER TO MEET.

GETTING THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S COMPLETE APPROVAL FOR AN ANGLO-AMERICAN PEACE PLAN WAS MORE DIFFICULT THAN EXPECTED BUT SOME SORT OF OFFER TO MR. SMITH, HOWEVER VAGUE, IS EXPECTED BY NIGHTFALL TODAY.

WIRES

1. UPI - ANDERSON FROM DAR ES SALAAM

LEAD: SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE AND HIS BRITISH NEGOTIATING PARTNER TALKED WITH RHODESIAN GUERRILLAS TODAY, TRYING
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TO RESOLVE UNEXPECTED PROBLEMS WHICH THREATENED THEIR ATTEMPTS TO AVERT CIVIL WAR.

OTHER POINTS:

-- FRONTLINE STATES BROUGHT ADDITIONAL PRESSURE ON THE PATRIOTIC FRONT TO ACCEPT AN ANGLO-AMERICAN PEACE PACKAGE AFTER THEY HAD RAISED UNEXPECTED OBJECTIONS DURING AN INITIAL FIVE HOURS OF TALKS WITH VANCE AND OWEN.

-- MUGABE AND NKOMO THEN RETIRED TO A PRIVATE ROOM WITH THE BRITISH AND AMERICANS, APPARENTLY TO DECIDE IF THERE HAD BEEN ENOUGH PROGRESS AND A CHANCE OF A SUCCESSFUL OUT-COME EVEN TO CONTINUE THE FULL MEETING LATER IN THE DAY.

2. REUTER FROM DAR ES SALAAM - NO BYLINE:

LEAD: "BLACK RHODESIAN GUERRILLA LEADERS HAVE ACCEPTED AN ANGLO-AMERICAN INVITATION TO AN ALL-PARTY RHODESIA CONFERENCE, A BRITISH AND AN AMERICAN SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY. THE SPOKESMEN SAID THEY WERE NOT AWARE OF ANY PRECONDITIONS FOR ATTENDING SUCH A CONFERENCE.

OTHER POINTS:

-- HODDING CARTER SAID THE UNITED STATES AND BRITIAN HAD NARROWED SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCES WITH THE GUERRILLA LEADERS ON SOME ISSUES AMONG THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS.

-- MR. CARTER SAID SOME SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCES REMAINED BUT THESE WOULD BE DISCUSSED LATER TODAY.

-- ONLY LAST NIGHT GUERRILLA LEADERS HAD SAID THEY WOULD ATTEND ONLY IF THE CONFERENCE WERE CALLED ON THE BASIS OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS, WHICH CALLED FOR THE IMMEDIATE REPLACEMENT OF SMITH BY A BRITISH RESIDENT
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COMMISSIONER.

--BRITISH FORIEGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN HAMILTON WHITE INDICATED THE PATRIOTIC FRONT HAD DROPPED ITS PRECONDITIONS.

-- BUT WHITE ADDED: "WE ARE CERTAINLY GOING THERE TO NEGOTIATE ON THE BASIS OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS.BUT

CERTAINLY WE'RE NOT IN A POSITION TO PUT A GAG ON ANYBODY ELSE WHO PARTICIPATES."

-- CARTER ALSO SAID: "THIS IS SOMETHING WE HAD HOPES TO GET HERE AND HAVE GOTTEN. AS FAR AS WHAT ELSE WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED HERE, WE'RE ABOUT HALFWAY INTO THIS. IT WOULD BE A LITTLE EARLY TO RUN AN ASSESSMENT FOR YOU UNTIL WE SEE THE RESULTS OF THE END OF THIS MEETING.

3. AP FROM DAR ES SALAAM - NO BYLINE:

LEAD: RHODESIAN GUERRILLA LEADERS AGREED TODAY TO ATTEND AN ALL-PARTY CONFERENCE TO NEGOTIATE BRINGING BLACK MAJORITY RULE TO THE AFRICAN NATION. THEIR ACCEPTANCE WAS ANNOUNCED AFTER TALKS WITH SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE AND BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN.

OTHER POINTS:

-- A BRITISH SPOKESMAN SAID THE HOPE WAS TO HOLD THE

CONFERENCE LATER THIS MONTH OR IN MAY AT A SITE TO BE DETERMINED.

-- SPOKESMAN H. WHITE SAID: "NOBODY IS COMMITTED TO ANYTHING MERELY BY AGREEING TO GO." HE ADDED: "THE QUESTION UNCLASSIFIED

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OF WHO IS GOING TO PARTICIPATE ON THE SALISBURY SIDE IS SOMETHING WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TALK ABOUT WITH THE PARTIES THERE."

-- ANDREW YOUNG COMPARED THE TALKS TO "A WOMAN IN CHILD-BIRTH." "WHEN IT HAPPENS," BUT ADDED BIRTH WOULD NOT OCCUR TODAY.

--SPOKESMAN FOR THE BRITISH DELEGATION SAID "THE GUT ISSUES; OF THE PLAN MUST BE SOLVED BEFORE ANY AGREEMENT IS FORMALIZED. HE SAID THE FUNCTIONS OF THE UN FORCE AND THE HIGH COMMISSIONER HAD NOT BEEN SETTLED. CHRISTOPHER

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